

## AUSTRALIAN BOOKKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

### Transcript of AGM — 24 November 2023 10.30 am

#### 1. Welcome

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen.

I am Peter Thorp, the Chair of Australian Bookkeepers Association Limited. It is now 10.35 am.

I welcome you to the annual general meeting of the company.

#### 2. Quorum

As we have a quorum, I now declare the annual general meeting open.

#### 3. Directors

I will now introduce your Directors who are present today:

Peter Thorp

Kerrie Jarius

Kelvin Deer

Darren Hagarty

Kellie Powell

Joanne Crumpton

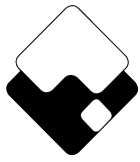
Sonya Farrawell

Larisa Hailey

#### 4. Notice of meeting

The notice of meeting was dispatched to all members.

Members, I move that the notice of meeting be taken as read.



All the business at an AGM is special business (which is business of which prior notice has been given), so only the agenda items specified in the notice of meeting can be dealt with at this meeting.

## 5. First Item of Business

The first item of ordinary business is to receive the Financial Reports and the Directors' and Auditor's reports. We will look at each of these in turn.

### - *Financial reports*

The Accounts and reports are available for inspection.

The Association's Income for the year to 30 June 2023 was \$41,523 which included membership fees of \$41,223 and other income of \$300. After expenses of \$54,908 the Association recorded a Net Deficit of \$13,385. The net deficit for the year was influenced by 2 factors:

1. A deliberate decision to spend some of our prior years surplus on education objectives; and
2. A much higher consultation level than in previous years.

The net deficit in no manner reflects on the financial viability of the Association and our auditor expressed no concerns about it. The deliberate and planned expenditure combined with an abnormal cost in consultation leads our board to believe that your association is living comfortably within its means.

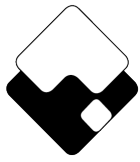
Australian Bookkeepers Network works closely with the Association including sharing premises and under a commercial agreement provides resources such as labour, premises, IT, website and other overheads. The association received no direct funding from Australian Bookkeepers Network for the year ended 30 June 2023.

### - *Auditor's Report*

The company's auditor, Robert Edwards of C N Audit Services, has provided the audit report which states (and I will read that faithfully):

*"In my opinion the financial report of the Company has been prepared in accordance with the Corporations Act 2001, including:*

1. *giving a true and fair view of the Company's financial position as at 30 June 2023 and of its financial performance for the year ended on that date; and*
2. *complying with Australian Accounting Standards – Simplified Disclosures.."*



## ***Directors' Report and Report on Association's Activities.***

### **Review of operations**

A review of the operations of the Company during the financial year and the results of those operations show that throughout 2023, Australian Bookkeepers Association (ABA) was active on a range of fronts on behalf of its members.

#### **1. Representation at Industry Forums**

A key tenet of ABA's charter is to provide representation for its members. To this end, ABA provided its members with a voice through the following Government industry forums during the year.

#### **2. ATO BAS Agent Association Group (BASAAG)**

ABA is a member of BASAAG. By way of background, BASAAG is the ATO's key forum for BAS Agents. The forum focuses on administrative issues that impact BAS Agents in their interactions as intermediaries with the tax system. In its capacity as a member, ABA through its directors attended and provided feedback/input from a bookkeeper perspective on the Agenda items at all 2022 / 2023 BASAAG meetings. At these forums, ABA not only acts as a collective voice for its members, it also channels the key messages from the forums back to its members through its member-newsletter publications. ABA director Kerrie Jarius is the co-chair of BASAAG.

#### **3. Tax Practitioner Stewardship Group (TPSG)**

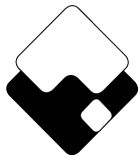
The Tax Practitioner Stewardship Group (previously known as the ATO Tax Practitioner Advisory Group) is a stewardship group that focuses on the 'system in operation' and deals with significant issues that are in the national interest, specific to tax practitioners. This group splinters into a number of single purpose working groups in which a number of your directors serve. The TPSG had a particularly active year with Client Agent Linking, STP2, digital implementation, lodgement program, new lodgement deferral platform and other working groups.

#### **4. Treasury (Pay Day Super)**

Treasury instigated targeted consultation with key stakeholders affected by the proposed Pay Day Super initiative. ABA is proud to be a part of this process.

#### **5. Tax Practitioner Board Consultative Forum**

ABA is a member of the Tax Practitioner Board Consultative Forum. The Consultative Forum is the Board's main avenue of interaction with the Tax Agent and BAS Agent community. The Forum consists of Board recognised Tax Agent and BAS Agent Associations, including ABA. In its capacity as a member, ABA through its directors attended and provided feedback



from a bookkeeper perspective on the Agenda items at all of the Board's Consultative Forums throughout 2022 / 2023. A number of your directors served on this forum as well as the education and qualification working groups and Standards and Governance Forums.

At these forums, ABA not only acts as a collective voice for its members, it also channels the key messages from the forums back to its members through its member-newsletter publications.

## 6. Consultations

ABA was involved in a number of other formal Groups, workshops, meetings and discussions with both the ATO, the Tax Practitioners Board, ABS and other industry participants throughout the year. It was involved in a wide range of issues affecting BAS Agents and bookkeepers including Lodgements, new Online Services, STP 2, e- invoicing, client verification, electronic ABS returns and more.

## 7. Training and Learning

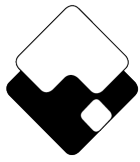
Another key tenant of ABA's charter is to provide ongoing training and learning opportunities for its members. To this end, throughout 2022/2023, a range of learning options were made available to members through newsletters, events, webinars, skills assessment test etc. Australian Bookkeepers Network (ABN) has kindly supported ABA members by providing a number of training and learning options including newsletters, social media, Bookkeeper Radio podcasts and more recently the STP2 intensive.

## 8. Submissions, Feedback and Discussion Papers

As a representative of BAS Agents and Bookkeepers, ABA regularly lodges and collaborates on written submission and provides feedback to government including the Tax Office, the TPB and Treasury over a range of issues affecting the bookkeeper community. Submissions were made on a number of issues including Client Agent Linking, Lodgement Program initiatives, as well as a multitude of correspondence on general consultation issues

I would like to pass a special vote of thanks to each of our directors who have given so much to membership. The last year has put in front of us a very full consultation workbook with the ATO, the TPB and other government bodies (ABS, Finance Dept & Treasury). Your directors have given of their time (not for paid remuneration) but for the good of our special bookkeeping community. Most of what they do goes unseen and is often not able to be widely discussed because the subject matter is subject to confidentiality agreements.

No resolution is required, but I now invite members to comment or ask questions on the reports or the business of the company.



## 6. Second Item of Business

### Election of Directors

#### To consider ordinary resolutions to elect Directors to the Board

ABA currently has 8 directors. The following candidates have nominated for the position of Director:

- Darren Hagarty
- Kellie Powell
- Kelvin Deer
- Kerrie Jarius
- Peter Thorp
- Joanne Crumpton
- Larissa Hailey

Each director supplied a Personal Statement, and each offered a compelling case for election to the Board.

As there are 8 Director positions available and there are 7 nominations there is no vote necessary and all persons are re-elected for a further term.

It is also at this time that the Board would like to acknowledge and thank Sonya Farrowell for her 6 years of valued contribution to ABA. Sonya was a very active member of the Board especially on the education front. Sonya retired from the Board this year and we wish her all the best for the future.

## 7. Closure

That ends the formal part of the annual general meeting.

I now invite anyone with other questions or comments not related to the specific business of the meeting to ask them now either of myself or to chat informally to any of the Board members present.

Thank you all for your attendance and interest and we look forward to your continued support in the coming year.